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WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1           1.    An    electronic    method    for    managing  
2    transportation from an origin location, the method  
3    comprising the steps of:

4                receiving an activity indicator including an  
5    activity location and an activity start time;

6                identifying at least a first airport, the  
7    first airport being within a first threshold  
8    measurement of the activity location; and

9                identifying at least a first departing flight  
10   associated with the at least the first airport, the  
11   identified at least a first departing flight associated  
12   with a flight arrival time and the first departing  
13   flight being at least between the origin location and  
14   the at least the first airport;

15               wherein the flight arrival time of the at  
16   least the first identified departing flight is prior to  
17   the activity start time.

1           2.    The electronic method of claim 1, wherein the  
2    step of identifying the at least the first airport  
3    includes the step of identifying a plurality of  
4    airports and wherein the step of identifying the at

5     least the first departing flight includes the step of  
6     identifying a plurality of flights associated with each  
7     of the plurality of airports.

1             3.     The method of claim 2, wherein each of the  
2     identified plurality of flights is associated with a  
3     characteristic data item, the method comprising the  
4     steps of:

5             comparing the characteristic data item for  
6     each of the identified plurality of flights with a  
7     flight preference; and

8             ranking each of the identified plurality of  
9     flights according to the flight preference.

1             4.     The method of claim 3, wherein the step of  
2     comparing the characteristic data item includes the  
3     step of comparing the flight price for each of the  
4     identified plurality of flights with a flight price  
5     maximum; and wherein the step of ranking each of the  
6     identified plurality of flights includes the step of  
7     ranking each of the identified plurality of flights  
8     according to the comparison of the flight price to the  
9     flight price maximum.

1           5.    The electronic method of claim 1, wherein the  
2    step of identifying at least the first departing flight  
3    includes the steps of:

4                calculating a travel time between the at  
5    least the first airport associated with the at least  
6    the first departing flight and the activity location;  
7    and

8                determining an activity location arrival  
9    time, the activity location arrival time indicating a  
10   summation of the flight arrival time and the calculated  
11   travel time;

12               wherein the determined activity location  
13   arrival time is prior to or equivalent to the activity  
14   start time.

1           6.    The electronic method of claim 1, wherein the  
2    step of identifying at least the first departing flight  
3    includes the steps of:

4                calculating a travel time between the at  
5    least the first airport associated with the at least  
6    the first departing flight and the activity location;  
7    and

8 determining an earliest flight arrival time,  
9 the earliest flight arrival time representing the  
10 result of subtracting the calculated ground travel time  
11 from the activity start time;

12 wherein the arrival time of the at least the  
13 first flight is prior to or simultaneous with the  
14 determined earliest flight arrival time.

1 7. The electronic method of claim 1, further  
2 comprising the steps of:

3 receiving an activity stop time indicator,  
4 the activity stop time indicator indicating a stop time  
5 for the activity; and

6 identify at least a first returning flight,  
7 the at least the first returning flight associated with  
8 a flight departure time and being at least between the  
9 at least the first airport and the origin location;

10 wherein the flight departure time of the  
11 identified at least the first returning flight is  
12 subsequent to the stop time for the activity.

1 8. The electronic method of claim 7, further  
2 comprising the steps of:

3 determining if the flight arrival time of the  
4 identified at least the first departing flight is on a  
5 first day and if the flight departure time of the  
6 identified at least the first returning flight is on a  
7 second day;

8 responsive to determining that the flight  
9 arrival time of the identified at least the first  
10 departing flight is on the first day and that the  
11 flight departure time of the identified at least the  
12 first returning flight is on the second day,  
13 identifying a plurality of lodging locations within a  
14 lodging threshold distance of one of the at least the  
15 first airport and the activity location.

1 9. The method of claim 8, further comprising the  
2 step of:

3 reserving at least one of the identified  
4 plurality of lodging locations.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of  
2 receiving an activity indicator includes the step of  
3 receiving an address for the activity location.

1           11. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of  
2     identifying at least the first airport includes the  
3     step of identifying the at least the first airport, the  
4     at least the first airport being within a temporal  
5     threshold measurement of the activity location.

[illegible]

12. A computer system for managing transportation based upon a transportation indicator that includes a location and an arrival start time, the computer system comprising:

a processor;

a storage device connected to the processor, the storage device for storing instructions executable by the processor;

a plurality of instructions stored on the storage device, the plurality of instructions configured to cause the processor to:

identify at least a first transportation destination, the first transportation destination being within a first threshold measurement of the location; and

identify at least a first departing option associated with the at least the first transportation destination, the identified at least a first departing option associated with an option arrival time and the first departing option including transportation between a transportation origin and the first transportation destination;



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cont'd

23 wherein the option arrival time of the  
24 at least the first identified departing option is prior  
25 to the activity start time.

1 13. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the  
2 plurality of instructions are for causing the processor  
3 to:

4 identify a plurality of transportation  
5 origins; and

6 identify a plurality of transportation  
7 options associated with each of the plurality of  
8 transportation origins.

1 14. The computer system of claim 13, wherein each  
2 of the identified plurality of transportation options  
3 is associated with a characteristic data item and  
4 wherein the plurality of instructions are for causing  
5 the processor to:

6 compare the characteristic data item for each  
7 of the identified plurality of options with an option  
8 preference; and

9 identify each of the identified plurality of  
10 options that corresponds with the option preference.

1           15. The computer system of claim 14, wherein the  
2 plurality of instructions are for causing the processor  
3 to:

4                 compare a transportation option price for  
5 each of the identified plurality of transportation  
6 options with an option price maximum; and

7                 identify each of the identified plurality of  
8 transportation options that have a flight price below  
9 or equivalent to the option price maximum.

1           16. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the  
2 plurality of instructions are for causing the processor  
3 to:

4                 calculate a travel time between the at least  
5 the first transportation destination associated with  
6 the at least the first departing option and the  
7 location; and

8                 determine a location arrival time, the  
9 location arrival time indicating a summation of the  
10 transportation option arrival time and the calculated  
11 travel time.

1           17. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the  
2 plurality of instructions are for causing the processor  
3 to:

4           calculate a travel time between the at least  
5 the first transportation destination associated with  
6 the at least the first departing option and the  
7 location; and

8           determine an earliest option arrival time,  
9 the earliest option arrival time representing the  
10 result of subtracting the calculated travel time from  
11 the activity start time.

1           18. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the  
2 plurality of instructions are for causing the processor  
3 to:

4           identify at least a first returning option,  
5 the at least the first returning option associated with  
6 a option departure time and being at least between the  
7 at least the first transportation destination and the  
8 transportation origin;

9           wherein the option departure time of the  
10 identified at least the first returning option is  
11 subsequent to a stop time for the activity.

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1           19. The computer system of claim 18, wherein the  
2 plurality of instructions are for causing the processor  
3 to:

4                 determine if the option arrival time of the  
5 identified at least the first departing option is on a  
6 first day and if the option departure time of the  
7 identified at least the first returning option is on a  
8 second day;

9                 responsive to determining that the option  
10 arrival time of the identified at least the first  
11 departing option is on the first day and that the  
12 option departure time of the identified at least the  
13 first returning option is on the second day, identify  
14 a plurality of lodging locations within a lodging  
15 threshold distance of the location.

1           20. The computer system of claim 19, wherein the  
2 plurality of instructions are for causing the processor  
3 to:

4                 reserve at least one of the identified  
5 plurality of lodging locations.

1           21. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the  
2 plurality of instructions are for causing the processor  
3 to:  
4           receive an address for the location.

1           22. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the  
2 plurality of instructions are for causing the processor  
3 to:  
4           rank the at least the first transportation  
5 origin according to its temporal distance from the  
6 location.

1           23. The computer system of claim 12, further  
2 comprising:  
3           a network connected to the processor;  
4           a remote device connected to the network, the  
5 remote device for providing the transportation  
6 indicator to the processor.

1           24. The computer system of claim 23, wherein the  
2 remote device is a wireless device.

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1           27. A computer system for planning  
2   transportation, the computer system comprising:  
3           a processor for executing instructions;  
4           a first storage device for storing an  
5   activity indicator, the activity indicator indicating  
6   at least an activity time and an activity location;  
7           a second storage device connected to the  
8   processor, the storage device for storing instructions  
9   that are executable by the processor; and  
10           a plurality of instructions stored on the  
11   second storage device, the plurality of instructions  
12   for causing the processor to:  
13           identify a plurality of transportation  
14   options wherein each of the plurality of transportation  
15   options arrives at the activity location prior to the  
16   activity time; and  
17           reserve a first of the plurality of  
18   transportation options.

1           28. The computer system of claim 27, wherein the  
2   activity location is a cargo destination and the  
3   activity indicator is a cargo arrival time.

1           29. The computer system of claim 27, wherein the  
2 plurality of instructions are for causing the processor  
3 to:

4                   apply a transportation rule to the plurality  
5 of transportation options, thereby identifying the  
6 first of the plurality of transportation options.

1           30. The computer system of claim 27, further  
2 comprising:

3                   a network connected to the processor; and  
4                   a remote device connected to the network, the  
5 remote device for providing the activity indicator to  
6 the processor.

1           31. The computer system of claim 27, wherein the  
2 plurality of instructions are for causing the processor  
3 to:

4                   automatically identify a plurality of  
5 transportation options wherein each of the plurality of  
6 transportation options arrives at the activity location  
7 prior to the activity start time.



1           32. An electronic signal from an electronic  
2 device, the electronic signal capable of activating  
3 another device, wherein the another device is  
4 responsive to the signal to thereby perform steps  
5 comprising:

6           identifying at least a first airport, the  
7 first airport being within a first threshold  
8 measurement of the activity location; and

9           identifying at least a first departing flight  
10 associated with the at least the first airport, the  
11 identified at least a first departing flight associated  
12 with a flight arrival time and being at least between  
13 the origin location and the at least the first airport;

14           wherein the flight arrival time of the at  
15 least the first identified departing flight is prior to  
16 the activity start time.

1           33. The electronic signal of claim 29, wherein  
2 the another device is responsive to the signal to  
3 thereby perform steps comprising:

4           calculating a travel time between the at  
5 least the first airport associated with the at least

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6 the first departing flight and the activity location;  
7 and  
8 determining an activity location arrival  
9 time, the activity location arrival time indicating a  
10 summation of the flight arrival time and the calculated  
11 travel time;  
12 wherein the determined activity location  
13 arrival time is prior to or equivalent to the activity  
14 start time.

34. The electronic signal of claim 29, wherein  
the another device is responsive to the signal to  
thereby perform steps comprising:  
calculating a travel time between the at  
least the first airport associated with the at least  
the first departing flight and the activity location;  
and  
determining an earliest flight arrival time,  
the earliest flight arrival time representing the  
result of subtracting the calculated ground travel time  
from the activity start time;

12 wherein the arrival time of the at least the  
13 first flight is prior to or simultaneous with the  
14 determined earliest flight arrival time.

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1           35. An electronic method for planning  
2 transportation, the electronic method comprising the  
3 steps of:

4                 receiving an activity indicator including a  
5 plurality of transportation parameters;

6                 developing a proposed transportation plan  
7 corresponding to the received plurality of  
8 transportation parameters;

9                 transmitting at least an indication of the  
10 proposed transportation plan;

11                receiving an indication of approval of the  
12 proposed transportation plan; and

13                responsive to receiving the indication of  
14 approval, arranging transportation according to the  
15 transportation plan.

1           36. The electronic method of claim 35, wherein  
2 the step of receiving an activity indicator includes  
3 the step of receiving a scheduled activity from a  
4 personal information manager.